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DON'T DOUBT YOUR WIFE

By Leah Baird

John Manning loved his wife, Rose, but neglected to tell her so. He was jealous of Herbert Olden, who had never understood why Rose had married Manning when she might have been Mrs. Herbert Olden. Rose found Herbert a nice playmate for idle hours.

It was a game of tennis she played with Herbert at a fashionable house party that caused John to leave for town in a fit of anger. Rose decided their quarrel had been silly, and she decided to go home and make it up.

Herbert drove her to the station, but they missed the train, so he offered to drive her to the junction, where she could get the same train. Night came on, and a terrific storm blew up suddenly. In the open roadster, Rose and Herbert were soon wet to the skin. To add to their troubles, the gasoline gave out.

They stopped at Idlewild Lodge. Rose went to a room and dried her clothes before the grate fire, while Herbert, when the rain stopped, went in search of gasoline. The Lodge, which had long been under the surveillance of prohibition enforcement agents, was raided. Rose, in terror, risked her life and jumped out the window, leaving behind part of her clothes. She and Herbert got away before their identity was discovered.

Realizing John would not understand, Rose hoped to steal unnoticed into the house, but John was waiting for her. He observed her state of undress; and she was wearing Olden's coat! He doubted her fidelity. He assumed the worst, and would not be convinced otherwise. He said he never wanted to see her face again.

So Rose went to her mother. She made several ineffectual attempts at reconciliation. The last time she went to him she found his home-- once her home-- full of roistering, newly made friends of a cabaret. She was ashamed for him, and at last accepted Herbert's oft-repeated offer of marriage.

The divorce was quickly and quietly executed, but John found no happiness in his freedom, and wondered, too late, if he should not have been more gentle.

Finally the wedding morn of Rose and Herbert dawned. During the preparations Rose fainted. The doctor corroborated her suspicions that she was to become a mother.

Herbert realized that Rose's future happiness depended wholly upon her reconciliation with Manning. And because he loved Rose so dearly he went to Manning and told him that he had made two people unhappy because he had broken the first law of married life-- he had doubted his wife! Manning was still stubborn.

"Then it is your wish that I bring up your child?" Herbert asked. * * * *

Herbert convinced Rose that the only thing they could do was to go on with the wedding, but when she stood at the altar and lifted her unhappy eyes, they turned to gladness when she saw her former husband standing in the bridegroom's place. Herbert had stepped aside to the position of best man. John pledged a new and nobler love to a woman he no longer doubted.

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